



1865 "Let us keep step to the music of the Republic."—A. Lincoln. 1915



The First Draft of the Emancipation Proclamation

The Illinois National Half-Century Anniversary of Negro Freedom.
Headquarters : 3825 Dearborn Street, Chicago, U. S. A.



"Let us keep step to the Music of the Republic."—A. Lincoln.

ILLINOIS COMMISSION

[Appointed by Governor Edward F. Dunne, July 1st, 1913,
to arrange Half-Century Anniversary of Negro Freedom, un-
der Act passed by 48th General Assembly.] :: :: ::

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THE ILLINOIS (NATIONAL)
HALF-CENTURY ANNIVERSARY OF NEGRO
FREEDOM.

The Declaration of Independence and the Emancipation Proclamation are two of the greatest documents in the development of human liberty. On the first, Washington laid the foundations of the freest and greatest Democracy on earth. Through the second, Lincoln extended the freedom and opportunities of this Democracy to the millions of Negroes, who for two and one half centuries had been subjected to the cruelties and injustice of inhuman slavery.

Few realized how vital were the dangers of American Slavery, until the time when its abolition was indispensable to the peace and perpetuity of the Union of the American States.

For two hundred and fifty years, the intellectual, moral and social evils of slavery withered and corrupted every phase of American thought and life. So far-reaching were its baneful and blighting influences, that in many forms they still linger to plague and endanger the Nation.

From '61 to '65 the abolition of physical Slavery exacted of the Nation a terrible toll of agony, treasure and life. This was the price, only in part, which justice then demanded for the physical wrongs which the Nation had done the Negro.

AMERICAN VALOR That the American Nation was able to free the Slave, pay this price and live, is one of the most striking and phenomenal facts in political achievement; therefore the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of American Bondmen, practically consummated in '65, is a national event of the broadest human interest.



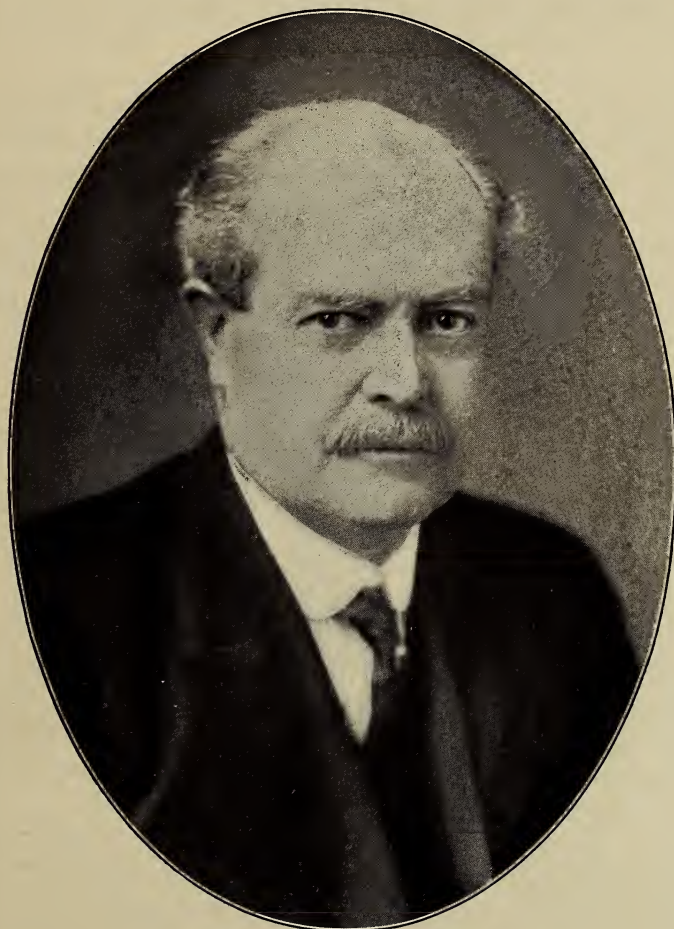
In the galaxy of brilliant men who contributed so much to this new estate, the name of Abraham Lincoln stands pre-eminent. To his political genius, more than to any other single factor, the Nation is indebted for the preservation of the Union with Negro freedom. While Lincoln was born in Kentucky, and lived in Indiana, yet it was Illinois that gave him to the country and the world. It is peculiarly fitting, therefore, that a great celebration should be held in this state.

ILLINOIS CELEBRATION In numbers too large to mention, the importance and significance of such a Celebration is appreciated by the people of Illinois. While five years ago Governor Deneen emphasized in a public address, the educational value of the Half-Century Exposition idea to allay race prejudice, growing out of a widespread unfamiliarity with the Negro's general social progress, it was the good fortune of Governor Dunne and the 48th Illinois General Assembly to consummate practically this noble and beneficent enterprise, by the passage of a bill creating a commission and making an appropriation for an Exhibition and Celebration to be held in the year 1915.

The work of the Celebration and Exposition in Illinois has been divided into six general departments as follows:

- (1) Department of Religion.
- (2) Department of Education.
- (3) Department of Military affairs.
- (4) Department of Industry.
- (5) Department of Social Progress, and the
- (6) Miscellaneous Department.

With a number of subordinate bureaus, all departments will organize with a departmental staff. Each department having its director and an advisory committee, selected from



HON. EDWARD F. DUNNE
Governor of Illinois
PRESIDENT EX-OFFICIO, ILLINOIS COMMISSION
Former Judge, Superior Court, Cook Co.
Former Mayor of Chicago



men and women throughout the country with expert and special knowledge of expositions.

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION The work of the Department of Religion will be to illustrate the religious development of the Negro in each denomination represented in Illinois and the various states. Special emphasis will be laid upon the spiritual and intellectual progress in Negro church life as disclosed by the influence and variety of his religious activity, in addition to the number and material value of church property and schools. To this will be added a religious exhibit.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION The Department of Education will combine the wonderful advancement of the Negro people in all the lower and higher culture through the Common Schools, High Schools, Academies, Colleges, and Universities. There will be an exhibit showing concretely this progress.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS The Department of Military Affairs will include the participation of the Negro in all the wars of the country and the military life of the states and Nation and will be emphasized by a suitable collection of selected exhibits.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY The Department of Industry will illustrate the progress of the Negro in all the lower grades and avenues of employment to which the Negro has been admitted as a wage earner, together with his development along the lines of independent and competitive business enterprise, with appropriate exhibits in agriculture, banking, insurance, real estate, pho-



tography, catering, tonsorial parlors, groceries and similar business vocations.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROGRESS The Department of Social Progress will embrace Negro advancement and activity in the higher forms of industry and culture, as inventions, the sciences, professions and fraternal organizations. Aside from a suitable exhibit, representative of the Negro's higher intellectual and industrial life, a sociological congress will be held, during which leading sociologists of the races will be invited to discuss and consider the different phases of American race relationships.

MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT The Miscellaneous Department will have charge of the lines of Negro activity which are not included in the foregoing departments, such as athletics, women's work, historical societies, naval history, public comfort, exploration, civics, philanthropic and benevolent movements and in addition to representative exhibits, a mother's congress will be held at which leading female representatives will discuss the problems associated with the improvement of Negro home life.

MISTAKEN VIEWPOINT The country is already familiar with the shortcomings of the American Negro as so often portrayed in the press of the country, and the commission will endeavor, especially, to set forth the negro as he really is, struggling manfully against great odds for recognition on his merits, for his rights in American democracy, and for a fair opportunity to actualize his highest moral destiny, and to contribute his proper portion to



American culture and civilization. For as Dr. DuBois has so well said:

Already the poems of Dunbar and Braithwaite, the essays of Miller and Grimke, the Music of Rosamond Johnson, and the paintings of Tanner are the property of the Nation and the world. Instead of being led and defended by others as in the past, they are gaining their own leaders, their own voices, their own ideals. Self-realization is thus coming slowly, but surely to another of the world's great races and they are today girding themselves to fight in the van of progress, not simply for their own rights as men but for the ideals of the greater world in which they live; the emancipation of women, universal peace, democratic government, the socialization of wealth and human brotherhood.

**FREEDOM'S
VANGUARD**

Among the most notable and attractive features in connection with this Anniversary Celebration will be an exhibit of data, showing the contributions made by the leaders for Negro freedom. Much of this data is already assembled, and only little of it has been ever published. It includes not only the Liberators of the Emancipation Period, but covers almost minutely the work of the early patriots as far back as the days of the American Revolution. Among these are Pastorius, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Lee, Crispus Attucks, Joseph Bloomfield, Peter Salem, Simon Tuck, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson, John Woolman, Phyllis Wheatley, John Jay, Absolom Jones, William Durham, Dessalines', Touissant, Sandiford, Benezet, George Leile, Lemuel Haynes, Harriet and Joseph Martineau, Harry Hosier, Henry Evans, Ralph Freeman, Abraham Marshall, Jesse Peters, Richard Allen, James Varick, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Joseph Atwell, Dr. James McCune Smith, William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Charles Sumner, George William Curtis, Horace Greeley, Gerritt Smith, Elijah P. Lovejoy, Owen Lovejoy, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglas, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Lucretia Mott,



Bishop Payne, William Wells Brown, the Bustills, Robert Purvis, William Jay, Thad Stevens, Henry Wilson, the Grimke Sisters, Hannibal Hamlin, James and William Forten, Phillips Brooks, Cassius M. Clay, Goldwin Smith, Queen Victoria, Richard Cobden, John Bright, Daniel O'Connell, Victor Hugo, Cardinal McCloskey, John Boyle O'Reilly, Professor Charles H. Reason, the Ripleys, Carl Schurz, Phoebe and Annie Carey, Bishop Hughes, Bishop Turner, Henry Ward Beecher, Susan Avery Hook, Harriet Tubman, Henry Highland Garnett, Parker Pillsbury, Lydia Maria Child, Passmore Williamson, the Hallowells, Walt Whitman, Lowell, Whittier, Holmes, Emerson, Bryant, Longfellow, Grant, Logan, Sherman, Bishop Hood, Joseph C. Price, General Armstrong, Benjamin Banneker, Edward W. Blyden, Peter Ogden, Bishop Holly, George W. Black, Robert G. Ingersoll, George Peabody, Bishop Arnett, George W. Gale, Sheridan, Howard, Miles, Shaw, Carney, Burnside, Smalls, Walls, Ben Butler, John M. Palmer, Bishop Hughes, Isaiah C. Wears, William Still, Martin R. Delaney, William Howard Day, Bishop Campbell, Howard Johnson, E. D. Bassett, Frances E. W. Harper, Paul Cuffey, Alexander Crummell, Edward Everett Hale, James H. Wolfe, Lewis Hayden, H. B. Vashon, Peter H. Clark, Hiram R. Revels, John Mercer Langston, McCants Stewart, Ira Aldridge, David Spencer, Frank Johnson, Samuel Ringold Ward, Samuel W. Chase, George Hockett, George M. Arnold, George Williams, Jacob C. White, Alexander Clark, Lewis Wood, John Jasper, Henry Brown, Thomas C. Motts, John Wesley Cromwell, Nathaniel Tice, Phillip A. Bell, Charles Lemon Redmond, George T. Downing, T. Morris Chester, Bishop Handy, Robert Browne Elliot, Bishop Haven, Dr. A. R. Abbott, Bishop Wayman, Bishop Cain, Emanuel Fortune, Frederick Hinton, Dr. P. W. Ray, Dr. James Augusta, Oliver Morton, William Watkins,



James Le Count, J. M. Trotter, Dr. Samuel F. T. Cook, Joseph Cassey, Richard T. Greener, Amanda Smith, Thomas Earle, Horace Mann, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, John W. Bunn, Horace Binney, Richard P. White, David Paul Brown, William Quincy Atwood, Octavius V. Catto, Dr. Samuel G. Howe, the Lawrences, the Lippincotts, the Coates and the Darlingtones, and that illustrious and innumerable host who led Freedom's van. These constitute the true Academy of Immortals!

**NOVEL
FEATURES**

JOHN BROWN'S daughter will exhibit a lock of her father's hair and a model of a fort constructed by him. A box used in the transportation of slaves on the Underground Railroad will be added to the novel features of the Exhibit. There will be Congresses and Exhibits representing the Y. M. C. A. movement among the Negro people, and a Roman Catholic exhibit depicting in pictured, painted and sculptured form the marvelous progress this great branch of the Christian church is making among its American Negro communicants.

**ILLINOIS'
INVITATION**

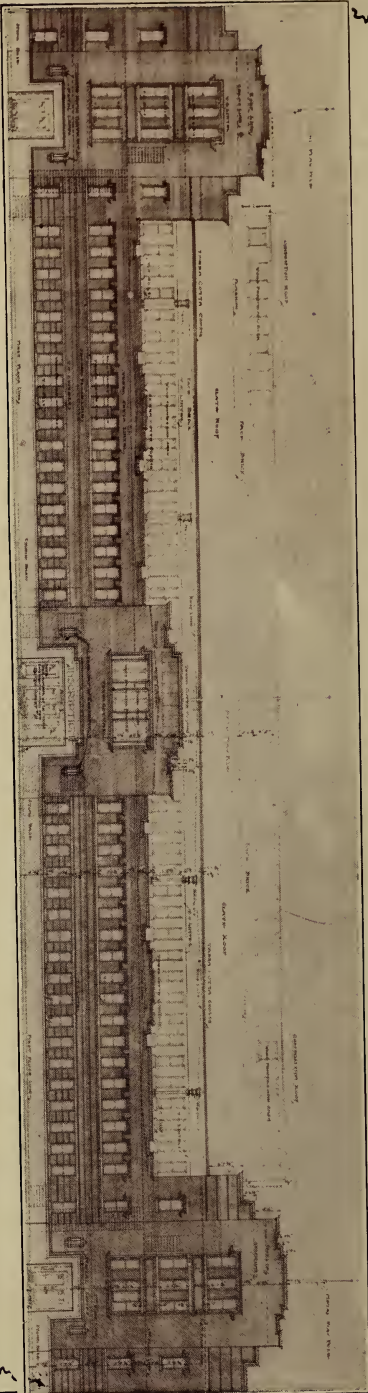
It is therefore with the greatest pleasure that the people of Illinois speaking officially through their Governor, and The Commission appointed by him, invite the people of the Nation to participate in and be present at the Golden Jubilee of Negro freedom to be held in the month of August, 1915, in the cities of Springfield and Chicago, which extend to all a hearty welcome.



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PROPOSED (CHICAGO) SITE
HALF-CENTURY GOLDEN JUBILEE OF NEGRO FREEDOM.



EIGHTH REGIMENT ARMORY
ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD.